

So, when you go home, listen to your seniors because they're going to know what's in this bill, and I don't want you guys to lose. I really don't.

DOING NOTHING IS NOT AN OPTION

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, not in six decades have we been this close to achieving the most crucial task of reforming our health care system. Let me be clear: we would be derelict in our duty to the American people if we let this opportunity go to waste.

Now, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim that this legislation amounts to the government takeover of health care and that Americans will be stripped of their choices of doctors and plans, but the reality is that everybody in this country will lose if they don't have health care reform.

People like Mary Smith, a 45-year-old with diabetes who just lost her job, she will no longer have to worry about whether she can get insurance again. Certainly, in my district, everybody will benefit, the 155,000 who lack health care coverage but, also, the majority of my constituents who are insured. They will have stability, security and peace of mind in having health care that they can count on no matter what happens. You will always have options for coverage even if you change or lose your job. You will never be denied coverage if you get sick.

Doing nothing is not an option.

BETTER ALTERNATIVE FOR HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a doctor, one of the main reasons I came to Congress was to push for health care reform, that is, commonsense reform, not nonsense reform as proposed by our Democrat colleagues. That's why I'm proud to be an original cosponsor of the Empowering Patients First Act, a Republican bill for reform.

This bill contains all of the essential elements of good health care reform, including expanding private insurance to all Americans who want it, removing preexisting illnesses, improving portability, subsidies to the working poor, access to excellent primary and specialty care and, of course, instituting lawsuit reform. All of this is accomplished without a government takeover, without gutting Medicare, without long lines or bureaucrats interfering in the sacred doctor-patient relationship; and it is budget neutral.

It is obvious that private insurance, no matter who pays for it, is the gold standard. As we return to our districts and debate this important issue, I believe we will find that Americans truly want private insurance options, not the

government takeover of health care with the Soviet-style central planning of our economy.

THE RECOVERY ACT IS CREATING JOBS

(Mr. SCHRADER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, I've come to the floor this week to dispel the assertion by Republican colleagues that the Recovery Act is not creating jobs. It's simply not accurate. I would like to talk to you about the first four construction transportation projects under way in my district.

Oregon 22, one of the few roads that connects the Willamette Valley to the Oregon coast, is getting two overlay construction projects, employing 44 and 80 workers respectively. These projects make sure that freight and tourists can keep our economy going.

Twenty workers are being put to work replacing the concrete barriers on Interstate 5, a major valley thoroughfare. This makes our highways safe. There are 120 workers who are being put to work paving and rebuilding sections of Highway 101, the only north-south road that connects the small Oregon coastal communities.

Mr. Speaker, those are 261 jobs under way in my district alone at this early stage of the recovery, and there are more in the works.

BRING FISCAL DISCIPLINE BACK TO WASHINGTON

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, in December 2007, our economy slipped into a recession, and since then, the recession has only gotten worse. The American people are hurting.

President Obama and Democrats in Congress promised that their stimulus plan would bring "immediate" relief. Unfortunately for the American people, the results are rolling in. Two million American jobs have been lost since the stimulus was signed into law. More than 400,000 jobs were lost in the month of June alone.

Just when you thought it was clear that we can't spend, borrow and tax our way to a growing economy, Democrats propose a government takeover of health care that will lead to higher taxes, to more government spending, and to even further job losses.

The American people deserve a real plan for real recovery, not another excuse to increase spending, to raise taxes, and to grow government. The Republican economic recovery plan brings fiscal discipline back to Washington, and it puts money back into the hands of the American people.

JOBS AND STIMULUS

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, President Obama inherited a labor market in free fall. When President Bush left office in January, job losses peaked as employers slashed a stunning 741,000 jobs.

Congress worked quickly with the new administration to restore financial stability and to pass a recovery package that is beginning to take hold. The pace of job losses has eased from its decline at the end of the Bush administration. Last week, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke testified that the unemployment rate would be higher right now without the legislation Congress enacted.

By restoring financial stability and by implementing stimulus measures and a responsible budget, we will make the investments necessary to lay the foundation for economic recovery that will put Americans back to work now and that will create the jobs of the future.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. REICHERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, when the House Ways and Means Committee recently considered the health care overhaul proposal, I supported an amendment that said if our constituents must join the government-run public plan, so should Members of Congress. Unfortunately, the Democrats rejected this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I ask today: If the government-run plan is great enough for the American people, why isn't it good enough for the Members of Congress?

Americans deserve the freedom to choose their health care. This plan doesn't give them that choice. It will force Americans into a plan that supporters of the bill simply don't want.

We need to work together to protect and to strengthen the health care of every American, not take away choice and drive up costs. I urge my colleagues to reject this bill, to work together on a plan that will lower costs, while maintaining the freedoms of Americans to choose their health care.

And that is just some straight shooting from the sheriff.

IT IS TIME TO ENACT REAL HEALTH CARE REFORM

(Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland. Mr. Speaker, it is time to speak a little truth to power, to the powerful special interests and to the insurance companies that are willing to deep-six health care reform for millions of Americans by spreading misinformation and by scaring people. All the while, these big insurance companies raise deductibles, premiums, and copays. They drop people with preexisting conditions. They